JS 44 (Rev. 02/19)

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The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS		1	DEFENDANTS		2914	
EFRAN SANTOS CRUZ,			GREG WALCZAK and MERIDIAN CONTRACTORS and CONSULTANTS, LLC			
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Philadelphia			County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Philadelphia			
(E.	XCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)	]	NOTE: IN LAND CO THE TRACT	(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES O ONDEMNATION CASES, USE T OF LAND INVOLVED.	ONLY) THE LOCATION OF	
	Address, and Telephone Number) q., Cooper Levenson, PA, site #205, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034		Attorneys (If Known)			
856-857-5508, nsansone						
II. BASIS OF JURISD	CTION (Place on "X" in One Box Only)			RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintif	
1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)	(For	Diversity Cases Only) P This State	1 /		
2 U.S. Government Defendant	4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of	Another State	2 Incorporated and of Business In		
			Subject of a  Country	3	66	
IV. NATURE OF SUIT					of Suit Code Descriptions.	
CONTRACT  110 Insurance	TORTS PERSONAL INJURY PERSONAL INJURY		EITURE/PENALTY ug Related Seizure	BANKRUPTCY  422 Appeal 28 USC 158	☐ 375 False Claims Act	
☐ 120 Marine ☐ 130 Miller Act ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument	☐ 310 Airplane ☐ 365 Personal Injury ☐ 315 Airplane Product Liability ☐ 367 Health Care/	- of	Property 21 USC 881	28 USC 157	☐ 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) ☐ 400 State Reapportionment	
☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment	☐ 320 Assault, Libel & Pharmaceutical	1		PROPERTY RIGHTS  820 Copyrights	☐ 410 Antitrust ☐ 430 Banks and Banking	
& Enforcement of Judgment  151 Medicare Act	☐ 330 Federal Employers' Product Liability			☐ 830 Patent	☐ 450 Commerce	
☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans	Liability	al /		☐ 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application	<ul> <li>460 Deportation</li> <li>470 Racketeer Influenced and</li> </ul>	
(Excludes Veterans)	☐ 345 Marine Product Liability			☐ 840 Trademark	Corrupt Organizations	
☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	Liability PERSONAL PROPE  ☐ 350 Motor Vehicle ☐ 370 Other Fraud		LABOR r Labor Standards	SOCIAL SECURITY  □ 861 HIA (1395ff)	480 Consumer Credit  485 Telephone Consumer	
☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits	☐ 355 Motor Vehicle ☐ 371 Truth in Lending	. / Ad	et	☐ 862 Black Lung (923)	Protection Act	
☐ 190 Other Contract ☐ 195 Contract Product Liability	Product Liability		bor/Management lations	☐ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) ☐ 864 SSID Title XVI	☐ 490 Cable/Sat TV ☐ 850 Securities/Commodities/	
☐ 196 Franchise	Injury 🗇 385 Property Damage	e 🖊 🛛 740 Ra	ilway Labor Act	☐ 865 RSI (405(g))	Exchange	
	☐ 362 Personal Injury - Product Liability  Medical Malpractice		nily and Medical ave Act		☐ 890 Other Statutory Actions ☐ 891 Agricultural Acts	
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS PRISONER PETITIC		ner Labor Litigation	FEDERAL TAX SUITS	☐ 893 Environmental Matters	
☐ 210 Land Condemnation ☐ 220 Foreclosure	☐ 440 Other Civil Rights Habeas Corpus: ☐ 441 Voting ☐ 463 Alien Detainee		ployee Retirement	870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)	☐ 895 Freedom of Information Act	
230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	☐ 441 Voting ☐ 463 Alien Detainee ☐ 510 Motions to Vaca		ome Security Act	7 871 IRS—Third Party	☐ 896 Arbitration	
☐ 240 Torts to Land	☐ 443 Housing/ Sentence		•	26 USC 7609	☐ 899 Administrative Procedure	
☐ 245 Tort Product Liability ☐ 290 All Other Real Property	Accommodations	Caraca JA	IMIGRATION		Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision	
	Employment Other:		turalization Application		☐ 950 Constitutionality of	
	Other 550 Civil Rights		ser Immigration tions		State Statutes	
	☐ 448 Education ☐ 555 Prison Condition					
	(7) 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of					
	Confinement					
	• •	☐ 4 Reinstate Reopenee		erred from	n - Litigation -	
	•		(specify)	Transfer	Direct File	
V. CAUSE OF ACTIO	Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you a FLSA 29 U.S.C. Section 201, et sec Brief description of cause:		t cite jurisdictional stat	ules unless diversity)'.		
THE DESCRIPTION OF		by DESC	AND	CHECK ALC	if demanded in complaint:	
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTIO UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.	N DEMA	AND 2	JURY DEMAND:	1	
VIII. RELATED CASE	E(S)				JUL 3 2019	
IF ANY	(See instructions):  JUDGE			DOCKET NUMBER	100r - 7 COI3	
DATE	/SIGNATURE OF A	TORNEY OF RI	ECORD			
07/03/2019	<u> </u>					
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	V UU U				o an	
RECEIPT# AN	AOUNT APPLYING IFP		JUDGE	MAG. JUD	JGE .	

ase 2:19-cv-02914-UNIXED STATES DISTRICE (COUNT) /03/19 Page 2 of 13
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA PAGE 2 of 13

DESIGNATION FORM
indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)

(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate catendar)							
Address of Plaintiff: 4644 ELLA St. PHILAISA PHILA, PA 19170							
Address of Defendant: 425 EDLEMOLTI St. PHILA, PA 19137 1 560 STATE B. BENSMEM, PA 19020							
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction:							
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:							
Case Number: FILAT SIMULTANGOUSY Judge: Date Terminated:							
Civil cases are deemed related when <i>Yes</i> is answered to any of the following questions:							
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year  Yes  No  Previously terminated action in this court?							
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit  Yes  No  pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?							
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier  No  No  No  No  No  No  No  No  No  N							
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights  Yes  No  No							
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case this court except as noted above.  DATE:							
CIVIL: (Place a √ in one category only)							
•							
A. Federal Question Cases:  B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:							
A. Federal Question Cases:  1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts  2. FELA  3. Jones Act-Personal Injury  4. Antitrust  5. Patent  6. Labor-Management Relations  7. Civil Rights  8. Habeas Corpus  9. Securities Act(s) Cases  10. Social Security Review Cases  11. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts  2. Airplane Personal Injury  3. Assault, Defamation  4. Marine Personal Injury  5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury  6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify):  7. Products Liability  8. Products Liability – Asbestos  9. All other Diversity Cases  (Please specify):  1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts  2. Airplane Personal Injury  3. Assault, Defamation  4. Marine Personal Injury  5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury  6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify):  9. All other Personal Injury (Please specify):  10. All other Federal Question Cases  (Please specify):  11. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts  12. Airplane Personal Injury  3. Assault, Defamation  4. Marine Personal Injury  5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury  6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify):  9. All other Personal Injury  12. Airplane Personal Injury  13. Assault, Defamation  14. Marine Personal Injury  15. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury  16. Other Personal Injury  17. Products Liability  18. Products Liability – Asbestos  19. All other Diversity Cases  (Please specify):  10. Antitrust							
1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts  2. FELA  3. Jones Act-Personal Injury  4. Antitrust  5. Patent  6. Labor-Management Relations  7. Civil Rights  8. Habeas Corpus  9. Securities Act(s) Cases  10. Social Security Review Cases  11. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts  12. Airplane Personal Injury  33. Assault, Defamation  44. Marine Personal Injury  55. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury  66. Other Personal Injury (Please specify):  7 Products Liability  8 Products Liability – Asbestos  9 All other Diversity Cases  (Please specify):  11. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts  12. Airplane Personal Injury  3 Assault, Defamation  4 Marine Personal Injury  5 Motor Vehicle Personal Injury  6 Other Personal Injury  9 Products Liability  10 Products Liability – Asbestos  11 All other Federal Question Cases  (Please specify):  12 Airplane Personal Injury  13 Assault, Defamation  4 Marine Personal Injury  9 Antitrust  14 Marine Personal Injury  15 Motor Vehicle Personal Injury  16 Other Personal Injury  17 Products Liability  18 Products Liability  19 All other Diversity Cases  (Please specify):  10 ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION							
1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts  2. FELA  3. Jones Act-Personal Injury  4. Antitrust  5. Patent  6. Labor-Management Relations  7. Civil Rights  8. Habeas Corpus  9. Securities Act(s) Cases  10. Social Security Review Cases  11. All other Federal Question Cases  (Please specify):  ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION  (The effect of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility for arbitration.)							
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### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

#### CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

EFRAN SANTOS CRUZ,	<b>:</b>	CIVIL ACTION						
V. GREG WALCZAK and MERIDIA	: N CONTRACTORS: :	NO	291					
AND CONSULTANTS, LLC	•		1.0					
In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsel for plaintiff shall complete a Case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the time of filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reverse side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a Case Management Track Designation Form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.								
SELECT ONE OF THE FO	LLOWING CASE MANAG	EMENT TRACKS:						
(a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255.								
(b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits.								
(c) Arbitration - Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2.								
(d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos.								
(e) Special Management – Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through (d) that are commonly referred to as complex and that need special or intense management by the court. (See reverse side of this form for a detailed explanation of special management cases.)								
(f) Standard Management – Cases that do not fall into any one of the other tracks.								
07/03/2019	· MW\	Nicholas J. Sansone, Esquir	e					
Date	Attorney-at-law	Attorney for Plaintiff						
856-857-5508	856-795-8641	nsansone@cooperlevenso	on.com					
Telephone	FAX Number	E-Mail Address						

(Civ. 660) 10/02

JUL - 3 2019



### Case 2:19-cv-02914-JDW Document 1 Filed 07/03/19 Page 4 of 13



### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Efran Santos Cruz

4644 Ella Street : Philadelphia, PA 19120 :

v. : Civil Action No.

Greg Walczak

425 Edgemont Street, :

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19137

And

Meridian Contractors and

Consultants, LLC 560 State Rd. Suite 202 Bensalem, Pennsylvania 19020

#### COMPLAINT

- 1. Plaintiff Efran Santos Cruz is an adult individual residing at the above address.
- 2. Defendant Greg Walczak is an adult individual residing at the above address ("Defendant Walczak").
- 3. Defendant Meridian Contractors and Consultants, LLC, is a business entity operating under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with its principal place of business located at 560 State Rd., Suite 202, Bensalem, PA 19020 ("Meridian"). Meridian is a construction company offering a variety of services in the property renovation and building industry.



- 4. At all times material hereto, Defendant Walczak was the owner, president and/or principal of Meridian (collectively hereafter as "Defendants").
- 5. Jurisdiction over the Fair Labor Standard Act ("FLSA") claim is proper under 28 U.S.C. §1331.
- 6. Jurisdiction over the State Law Claims is proper under 28 U.S.C. §1367.
  - 7. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. §1391.
- 8. The instant action stems from Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff for labor on various projects which were completed in or about July 2017 through October 2017.
- 9. During this timeframe, Plaintiff was employed as a mason for Aspen Construction Services, Inc. ("Aspen"). He was paid \$25.00 per hour in this capacity.
- 10. Throughout the aforementioned timeframe, Defendants utilized Plaintiff to perform work in furtherance of Meridian's business projects. Defendant Walczak also utilized Plaintiff's services for his own personal projects.
- 11. Defendant Walczak had been hired by Aspen Construction as a project manager in or about April or May 2017.
- 12. Defendant Walczak proceeded to engage in conduct throughout his employment at Aspen wherein he regularly

conducted work unrelated to Aspen projects and in furtherance of Meridian's work i.e. bids Meridian had procured.

- 13. Defendant Walczak misrepresented to Plaintiff that the work he was being asked to perform, as it relates to any bid work, were Aspen projects.
- 14. Specifically, Defendants failed to compensate Plaintiff for work performed by Plaintiff as part of renovation improvements performed on the Green Street Friends School in Philadelphia, work which was completed in or about the end of July 2017.
- 15. Plaintiff's work involved laying brick, performing window installation and window sealant/patch work and other lintel related work.
- 16. Plaintiff performed work at the Green Street School Friends School for six weeks, appearing at the job-site two to three times a week, between eight to ten hours a day at \$25.00 an hour.
- 17. Plaintiff initially believed this labor was for a bid procured by Aspen; in fact, this was related to Meridian's work on a bid procured solely by Meridian.

- 18. In sum, Defendants have failed to pay at or in excess of \$2,500.00 in wages owed to Plaintiff on the Green Street Friends School renovation project.
- 19. In July through August, 2017, Plaintiff performed certain chimney improvement work for Defendants on various residential and/or commercial properties. This included cleaning said chimneys and otherwise restoring brick on various properties as required.
- 20. Plaintiff spent two days on the work sites for nine hours a day at his standard \$25.00/hour and was not compensated for said work at or in excess of \$450.00 by Defendants.
- 21. In August through September 2017, Defendants hired Plaintiff for work for improvements and renovations to the Metro Diner on West Street Road in Warminster, Pennsylvania.
- 22. Plaintiff performed certain stucco and construction work at this site for four weeks at two to three days per week at nine to ten hours per day at his standard rate of \$25.00 per hour.
- 23. Upon information and belief, Defendants still owe Plaintiff for approximately twelve business days for wages totaling at or in excess of \$4,000.00-\$5,000.00 inclusive of overtime.

- 24. Plaintiff also performed certain garage renovations and improvements for Defendant Walczak's home in September 2017, said work which took two days at eight hours a day at the standard rate of \$25.00/hour or at or in excess of \$400.00.
- 25. Plaintiff has not been paid in any way for his services for this work which was wholly in furtherance of Defendant Walczak's personal property.

### COUNT I-BREACH OF CONTRACT PLAINTIFF EFRAN SANTOS CRUZ V. DEFENDANT WALCZAK

- 26. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 27. At all times relevant hereto, Plaintiff and Defendant Walczak had an agreement, evidenced by the conduct of the parties and the work done by Plaintiff, in which the Plaintiff agreed to provide his services as a mason in return for full compensation for said labor from Defendants.
- 28. Defendant accepted the value of the services performed by Plaintiff but has failed to compensate Plaintiff in full for said services despite the work being done fully and satisfactorily by Plaintiff.
- 29. Plaintiff engaged in no conduct in performing said services which would constitute a breach of any agreement he

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agreed to undertake for Defendants and at all times, his work was complete and in accordance with what was requested.

- 30. As a direct and proximate cause of the Defendant's breach of contract, Plaintiff has been damaged with direct monetary losses of the income he would have earned had he been fully compensated.
- 31. These damages, as well as any other compensatory damages, consequential damages, interest, attorney's fees and costs were a foreseeable result of Defendant's breach.

## COUNT II - NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION PLAINTIFF EFRAN SANTOS CRUZ v. DEFENDANTS WALCZAK AND MERIDIAN

- 32. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 33. As set forth above, Defendants represented to Plaintiff that they would compensate Plaintiff for the labor services he provided for the above projects but did not pay Plaintiff what he is fully owed.
- 34. These misrepresentations and/or omissions were negligently made to induce Plaintiff to engage work for Defendants and, as detailed below, to mislead Plaintiff into believing he was performing labor for his employer Aspen when he

was indeed furthering Defendants' own business and/or personal interests.

- 35. Plaintiff reasonably relied upon these misrepresentations and performed work for Defendants.
- 36. Defendants either knowingly or negligently represented to the Plaintiff that they would compensate Plaintiff for work done as part of the above projects and/or Plaintiff had an expectation that Aspen would pay his wages until it was discovered he was not engaging in Aspen related work and subsequently never paid.
- 37. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' negligent misrepresentations, Plaintiff incurred economic loss and has been damaged.
- 38. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' negligent misrepresentations, Plaintiff has been damaged and is entitled to all monies owed him as a matter of law for the above referenced work.

## COUNT III-QUANTUM MERUIT PLAINTIFF EFRAN SANTOS CRUZ v. DEFENDANTS WALCZAK AND MERIDIAN

39. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

- 40. Defendants have received the benefit of services provided by Plaintiff during work as detailed above.
- 41. Plaintiff is entitled by reason of quantum meruit to the reasonable value of services provided to the Defendants for which Defendants have failed and refused to compensate Plaintiff.

## COUNT IV - FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT PLAINTIFF EFRAN SANTOS CRUZ V. DEFENDANTS WALCZAK AND MERIDIAN

- 42. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 43. Plaintiff is an employee entitled to the Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA") protection and Defendants are an employer required to follow FLSA mandates.
- 44. Defendants violated the FLSA by failing to pay Plaintiff for all hours worked.
- 45. In violating the FLSA, Defendants acted willfully and with reckless disregard of all clearly applicable FLSA provisions requiring payment.

# COUNT V - PENNSYLVANIA MINIMUM WAGE ACT PLAINTIFF EFRAN SANTOS CRUZ V. DEFENDANTS WALCZAK AND MERIDIAN

46. Plaintiff incorporates the previous paragraphs as if fully set forth at length herein.

- 47. Plaintiff is an employee entitled to the Pennsylvania Minimum Wage Act ("PMWA") protections and Defendants are an employer required to follow the PMWA mandates.
- 48. The PMWA requires Defendants to pay Plaintiff compensation calculated at 150% of their regular pay rate for all hours worked in excess of forty hours per week.
- 49. Defendants violated the PMWA by failing to pay Plaintiff compensation for all hours worked in excess of forty hours per week.
- 50. In violating the PMWA, Defendants acted willfully and with reckless disregard of all critically applicable PMWA provisions requiring payment.

## COUNT VI - PENNSYLVANIA WAGE PAYMENT AND COLLECTION LAW PLAINTIFF EFRAN SANTOS CRUZ V. DEFENDANTS WALCZAK AND MERIDIAN

- 51. Plaintiff incorporates the previous paragraphs as if fully set forth at length herein.
- 52. Plaintiff is an employee entitled to the Pennsylvania Wage Payment and Collection Law ("PWPCL")'s protections and Defendants are an employer required to follow the PWPCL mandates.

53. PWPCL requires employees to be compensated for all

hours worked.

54. Defendants violated the PWPCL by failing to pay

Plaintiff for all hours worked and for the reimbursement of

expenses provided to all employees.

55. In violating the PWPCL, Defendants acted willfully and

with reckless disregard of all clearly applicable PWPCL

provisions regarding payment.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff seeks the following relief:

A. Payment of all unpaid regular wages;

B. Liquidated damages, penalties and/or pre-judgment

interest;

C. Attorneys' fees and costs as allowed by statute; and

D. Any other relief that this Court deems just and

proper.

COOPER LEVENSON, P.A.

BY:

NICHOLAS J. SANSONE, ESQUIRE

Attorney for Plaintiff

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